

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 3, 2005 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner notes the proper format for an Abstract. By the accompanying amendment, a new Abstract has been provided as a separate sheet.

The Examiner objects to claims 6-23 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being improper multiple dependent claims. By the accompanying amendment, the claims have been amended to eliminate any improper dependencies.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brown, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,990,248. The Examiner has taken the position that Brown et al. disclose each and every limitation of these claims.

By the accompanying amendment, limitations of claim 3 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claim 1 as amended now recites wherein that the reverse osmosis cartridge comprises a cylindrical enclosure and, concentric therewith, a hollow, perforated, central tube that collects the flow of permeate.

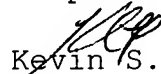
In contrast, Brown does not disclose a hollow central tube; instead a post-filter is required. Specifically, in the Figure 2 embodiment of Brown, the winding tube holds a

carrier tube 31, which in turn is filled with carbon granules 36. In the embodiment of Figure 5, mounting tube 62 holds a carrier tube 77, containing granulated filter material 76. In either case, post-filtration is carried out within the central portion of the Brown cartridge, thereby requiring some filtration medium there. No post-filtration is carried out with the apparatus of the present invention, and thus the instant central tube is hollow.

The remaining claims are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,


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